

LAFAYETTE COMMISSION ON THE NEEDS OF WOMEN

Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2016

Members Present: Megan Morris, Elsie Jones-Azare, Trasima Richard, Kris Manuel-Sparks, Brenda Andrus, Christy Lenahan, Sally Donlon, Marlice Young-Dugas, Fantacee Brown,

Members Excused: Elaine White, Martha Bryant

Members Unexcused: Peggy Andrus, Bernadette Castille

The meeting was called to order by Megan Morris at 5:30 pm.

PURPOSE

Brenda Andrus read the purpose.

REFLECTION

JoAnn LeJune gave the reflection.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Sally Donlon to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Elsie Jones-Azare. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Megan Morris stated that the bank statement was received and she had given it to Trasima Richard.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Trasima Richard gave the October 2016 treasurer's report. Trasima answered questions regarding checks that were written and gave an itemization of checks that were out. Motion made by Kris Manuel-Sparks to accept the report as read, seconded by Sally Donlon. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Marlice Young-Dugas reported that she had spoken with a member of the Lafayette South Rotary Club regarding their program Choices in which LCNW members would pair up with Rotary members for two (2) days to go into the schools to help teach children to make good choices in their lives. She also stated that the program Darkness to Light which spotlights sexual abuse has a class on November 16, 2016 at the Boys and Girls Club to help teach about spotting abuse and helping children cope with this situation. Marlice also stated that there had been a focus group meeting looking to start monthly meetings regarding preventing child abuse.

Health/Legislative/Legal: No report.

Membership/Hospitality: Brenda Andrus reported that we still need six (6) new members to fill the vacant seats on the Board. Brenda stated that we do have some applications to go through but would like each member of the board to try and get one (1) applicant each. A tentative date is November 14, 2016 but Brenda will email members of set date and time.

Question was asked if the applicants had to live in Lafayette Parish and Kris Manuel-Sparks read Article III Composition A. from the revised March 3, 2016 bylaw, "The members shall represent the broad cross section of citizens in Lafayette Parish and shall reside in Lafayette Parish". bylaw regarding this. Elsie Jones-Azare stated that this was incorrect and should read "The members shall represent the broad cross section of citizens in Lafayette Parish and shall reside and/or work in Lafayette Parish". Megan Morris read from previous minutes that a motion was passed for the article to read "The members shall represent the broad cross section of citizens in Lafayette Parish and shall reside and/or work in Lafayette Parish".

Publicity/Public Relations: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. LCNW Newsletter: An email to Megan from Martha Bryant stated that she needs articles from members by November 16, 2016 for the newsletter. Martha also stated that she had received material from Megan Morris, Kris Manuel-Sparks and Elaine White. Discussion about what should be in the newsletter. Elsie Jones-Azare to send Martha the link to include the application in the newsletter and Brenda Andrus to send photo and winners names from the Women of Excellence Awards Banquet to be included also. The first newsletter will be published in January, 2017.
- b. AOC TV Update: Marlice Young-Dugas stated that she has been in touch with Ed from the AOC channel and she will get dates that he is available in order for her and her committee Brenda Andrus, Sally Donlon, Bernadette Castille, Fantacee Brown and Christy Lenahan, to meet with him regarding our AOC programming. Marlice will let the committee know the date and time when Ed gets back to her.
- c. Women of Excellence Awards Banquet Review: Megan Morris asked for any comments or suggestions regarding the banquet. The comments were as follows:
 - 1) Ticketing needs to be online or a better system for selling and collecting tickets at the door. One suggestion was to put the ticket table outside of the room in the foyer in order to check people in a timelier manner.
 - 2) It was stated that the food ran out before everyone had gone through the buffet line. Megan stated that she paid for 150 people and that should have been enough because we did not have 150 people in attendance.
 - 3) Program needs to be edited more closely to prevent any errors with names, etc.
 - 4) Need a more prominent guest speaker to draw a bigger crowd.
 - 5) Music needs to be in the back of the room by food tables.
 - 6) Photos with award winners need to be in a place where people are not in front of them or behind them. Need new setup in the front of the room.

NEW BUSINESS

New member recruitment is imperative. The Commission needs six (6) new members as of now.

December 1 Meeting/Social, restaurant ideas given were:

- 1) Café Josephine, Sunset, Louisiana.
- 2) Don's Downtown.
- 3) Abacus.
- 4) El Paso Mexican Restaurant.

The membership voted and it was decided that the December Meeting/Social will be at Café Josephine in Sunset, Louisiana. Brenda Andrus to reserve the room and if it is not available on December 1st she will check with Abacus as the second choice.

Elsie Jones-Azare stated that we should make a policy for all new members to purchase their red LCNW shirts as they are \$25.00 and as some new members are getting the shirts free and then resigning from the Commission within a few months.

Megan Morris asked for ideas for organizations to receive the donation from our December Meeting/Social. They are as follows:

- 1) 10 year old Peyton, Leukemia patient, with a single Mom who has also just received and eviction notice and had to quit work in order to take care of her son.
- 2) August Flood Victims through United Way.
- 3) Homeless Education Program.
- 4) Child Smile – One parent is incarcerated.

Brenda will email the options and we will vote via email.

Sally Donlon stated that she had spoken to Mayor/President Robideaux and he would like to meet with us tentatively each month to stay abreast of what is going on with the Commission. The first tentative meeting date is November 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Sally to check with Mayor/President Robideaux to schedule this meeting and will send a group email to Commission members if confirmed. If we do have the meeting November 16, we will stay and afterwards to go over new member applications.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brenda Andrus asked for anyone who can help with the 2nd Harvest Food Bank food dispersal on November 19, 2016 from 7:00 am to 10:00 am at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, would be welcome. They are expecting a big turnout as they will be giving out turkeys at that time.

Brenda Andrus said there will be a Volunteer Appreciation, Vintage Night Dinner at Bailey's on December 20, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Price is \$12.50 each and all volunteers for any event are welcome. Dress code will be Vintage.

ADJOURN – Megan Morris adjourned meeting at 6:50 pm. Motion made by Sally Donlon, seconded by Trasima Richard.


Megan Morris
President


Kris Manuel-Sparks
Recording Secretary